

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in this application. Claims 1-15 are rejected. Claim 1 is amended hereby.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 1-3 and 6-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,599,093 (Craig), Applicant has amended claim 1 and submits that claims 1-3 and 6-15 are now in condition for allowance.

Craig '093 discloses that cellulosic fiber stock (chemical, semi-chemical, or mechanical pulp) used in making paper can be treated with a solution of calcium to modify and gelatinize the pulp fibers; and that the so modified cellulosic fibers can then be treated with a solution of a soluble salt such as sodium carbonate, sodium sulfate, etc. to precipitate an insoluble pigment such as calcium carbonate largely within the modified fibers as well as on and around the modified fiber (column 1, lines 37-51). The resulting modified and pigmented stock, containing the pigmented modified fibers, can be freed from salt formed as a byproduct and dried under regulated conditions to give a valuable dry, fibrous pigment product, or pigmented fiber product, which can be stored and shipped in a dry state and which can be readily reconverted into a fibrous pulp and used for admixture with other fibers for paper manufacture (column 1, line 52 through column 2, line 3).

In contrast, claim 1, as amended, recites in part: "loading the pulp with an additive by way of a chemical precipitation reaction, said loading step including both adding at least one of calcium oxide and calcium hydroxide to the pulp and treating the pulp with carbon dioxide . . .". (Emphasis added). Applicant submits that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed or suggested by Craig '093, or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, and includes distinct advantages thereover.

Craig '093 discloses that cellulosic fiber stock can be treated with a solution of calcium to modify and gelatinize the pulp fibers; and that the modified cellulosic fibers can then be treated with a solution of a soluble salt such as sodium carbonate, sodium sulfate, etc. to precipitate an insoluble pigment such as calcium carbonate largely within the modified fibers as well as on and around the modified fiber. However, Craig '093 fails to disclose or suggest loading the pulp by both adding at least one of a calcium oxide and a calcium hydroxide to the pulp and treating the pulp with a carbon dioxide.

An advantage of the present invention is the consistencies, optical characteristics, the specific volume (cm³/g), and the porosity, as well as the formation of the produced paper are increased or improved.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that claim 1, and claims 2, 3 and 6-15 depending therefrom, are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,599,093 (Craig) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,602,385 (Drummond) or U.S. Patent No. 6,436,238 (Pitkanen), Applicant has amended claim 1 and submits that claims 4 and 5 are now in condition for allowance. The amendment to claim 1 described above distinguishes claim 1, and any dependent claims including claims 4 and 5, from the cited art including Craig '093, Drummond '385 and Pitkanen '238.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that claims 4 and 5 are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

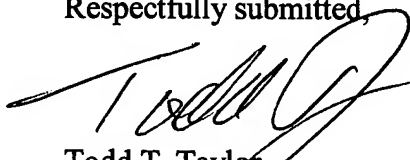
For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that no combination of the cited references teaches, discloses or suggests the subject matter of the amended claims. The pending claims are

therefore in condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the claims.

In the event Applicant has overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicant hereby conditionally petitions therefor and authorizes that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095, TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.

Should any question concerning any of the foregoing arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (260) 897-3400.

Respectfully submitted,



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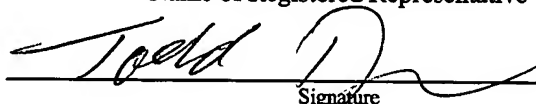
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on: November 11, 2004.

Todd T. Taylor, Reg. No. 36,945

Name of Registered Representative



Signature

November 11, 2004

Date

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